

February 28, 2005

Representative Brian Palmer  
S0885 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

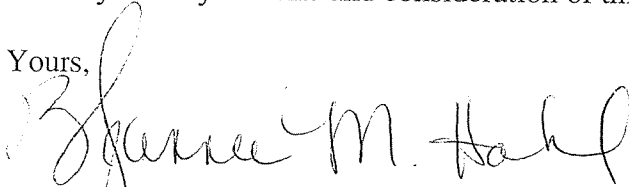
Dear Representative Palmer,

I am writing to you today with respect to House Bill no. 5606. I would like to recognize you for including a Physical Education and Health component in the additional graduation requirements proposed by House Bill no. 5606. However, I am concerned that the language of the bill might allow one subject to be exchanged for the other. Specifically, in section 1278A, A, v, the Bill mandates high school students seeking graduation to complete "at least 1 credit in Health and Physical Education from among courses approved by the department." This lack of specificity in the language of the bill may enable students to omit one of these equally necessary subjects from their high school curricula altogether. I would like to appeal to you to change the language so that the bill explicitly requires all Michigan students to satisfy .5 credits in Health and .5 credits in Physical Education.

I would also like to extend my admiration for your demonstrated commitment to bringing academic rigor to Michigan public high schools. The State of Michigan -- and the lives of our next generation of residents -- is sure to benefit from these higher expectations. It is my personal hope that House Bill no. 5606 will allow pupils of even the lowest socioeconomic stratum to attain an education comparable in quality to that of an expensive, and oftentimes inaccessible, private institutions. Regardless of socioeconomic status, all children must be expected to achieve nothing short of greatness and all children must be given the opportunity to recognize their innate abilities to meet such high expectations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeannie M. Hahl". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Jeannie M. Hahl  
1520 Hill Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104